



**Optometry Scotland Update regarding PCA(O)2021(1) issued Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Following this week's announcement from the First Minister regarding enhanced lockdown measures and the release of today's [PCA\(O\)2021\(1\)](#), it has now been confirmed that Community Eyecare is to continue offering all services safely and appropriately. This is in alignment with all other Primary Care providers as we join in support of an already pressurised NHS.

Community Eyecare is recognised as a key provider in the delivery of Primary Healthcare and this has been exemplified by the enormous efforts clinicians and support teams have put into the resumption of services, operating at an average of 90% capacity until the latest lockdown measures were introduced.

The latest guidance from the Scottish Government remains clear and concise. We have been furnished with NHS-approved and supplied PPE as well as guidance on effective triage and funding for remote consultations to ensure that patients do not visit practices unnecessarily. The support measures, guidance and good professional and clinical judgement leaves it entirely within the control of practices and practitioners to ensure they operate safely and to determine the numbers of patients visiting their premises. Reminders should be considered an invitation to discuss patient needs remotely, not an instruction to attend a practice.

We welcome the fact that the PCA allows us to continue operating whilst taking the opportunity to place even greater emphasis on infection control, triage and remote consultations, numbers of which will be included in the monthly calculations of GOS1 activity which we anticipate will exceed the 20% average floor limit. We also welcome the latest updates on the accelerating vaccination programme aimed at protecting our clinical teams.

We congratulate all of our hard working colleagues in Community Eyecare on the tremendous efforts of the past few months. This hard work has helped redefine our role as a highly skilled and valued part of NHS services in Scotland.

With best regards,

Optometry Scotland Executive Team